

I am writing in support of RM-10867.

In my area of West Virginia (Eastern Panhandle), there is an unwillingness among local stations to go to the West Virginia HF traffic nets; they are more interested in the Virginia nets. I have spoken with the West Virginia Section Manager and Section Traffic Manager and they both agree that the Eastern Panhandle needs more representation in the National Traffic System. In response, I have started a 2-meter traffic net over here and even have a station that is willing to liaison to the West Virginia Fone Net for me, but that is at most once a week. I figure the only way to have reliable representation for my area in the National Traffic System is to get on HF myself. The only way I can do that now is to try a Morse Code test. With school work and a physical handicap, I just don't have the time nor the patience to learn it. Now, some people might say that I am lazy but that is not true; I have tried listening to code, but after a while the dits and dahs seem to run together. I have read on various Internet sites about the uneasiness about the proposed "automatic" upgrade of Technicians to Generals without further testing. I have no problem with taking the current General test before I upgrade.